[13th August 1956

Hindu Religious Shrines and Endowments

* 72 *Q.*—Sri N. K. PALANISAMY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to bring in legislation to divert the incomes of Hindu Religious Shrines and Endowments to finance the Second Five-Year Plan in this State; and

(*b*) whether the State Government have received any communication from the Centre in the matter during the year 1956?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN: (*a*) This Government have no such proposal.

(*b*) A communication was received in 1955 (not in 1956) from the Government of India, Ministry of Education, asking for the views of this Government on the question of utilizing a part of the income of religious and charitable institutions for financing educational schemes under the Second Five-Year Plan. A similar communication was received from the Planning Commission also in the same year on the question of regulating on All-India basis, the use of the funds available with religious and charitable trusts.

Sri N. K. PALANISAMY: May I know why the Government are against the utilization of the funds of the Religious Shrines and Endowments for financing the Second Five-Year Plan and other activities?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN: Because the legal provisions are against it, we cannot do so.

Sri V. R. NAGARAJAN: Have the Government examined as to the amount that would be available from the funds of the Religious Shrines and Endowments which can be diverted for financing the Second Five-Year Plan?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN: The question does not arise.

Sri S. RAMALINGAM: சட்டம் குறுக்கே நிற்பதாக மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள். கோயில்களுக்கும், மடங்களுக்கும் இருக்கக் கூடிய சொத்துக்களிலிருந்து ஏராளமான வருமானம் வருகிறது. அது பல சமயங்களில் துர்விநியோகம் செய்யப்படுகிறது என்று பொது மக்களிடத்திலே ஒரு எண்ணம் ஏற்பட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கிறது. ஆகவே, அதிலிருந்து வரக் கூடிய வருமானத்திலிருந்து கல்விக்காவது அவர்கள் செலவிடுவதற்கு சட்டத்தை எந்த எந்த விதத்தில் திருத்தியமைக்க முடியுமோ அந்த விதத்தில் திருத்துவதற்கு சர்க்கார் நடவடிக்கை எடுப்பார்களா ?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN: சட்டத்தைத் திருத்தியமைத்தோம். ஆனால் ஹைகோர்ட்டில் அது செல்லாது என்று சொல்லி விட்டார்கள்.

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SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: May I know whether the communication received from the Central Government was only with reference to Hindu Religious Shrines and Endowments or was it with reference with Religious Shrines and Charitable Endowments in general?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN: I do not have the particular information here but I know that it is with regard to religious institutions.

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI: The Hon. Minister has been telling this House repeatedly that the High Court decision is against such utilization. May I know whether the Hon. Minister will inform the House very clearly whether the Government approve the principle of the suggestion, namely, the diversion of the funds for educational purposes and if they approve will it not be possible for them to have the Act amended to give effect to the principle?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN: The Government propose to bring in a comprehensive legislation in due course.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: The Hon. Minister stated that the Government made such a provision which was declared invalid by the High Court. That was so because it related specially to Hindu Religious Shrines and Endowments. If a provision is enacted that the surplus funds of all religious institutions without excluding the institutions of any denomination or caste could be diverted, I am sure that it will be declared valid. Will the Government take such a step to utilize the funds of all religious institutions irrespective of the fact whether they belong to Hindus or Christians?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN: We will await the action of the Government of India in this matter.

Extension of service to the Chief Engineer (General), Public Works Department

* 73 *Q.*—SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government have granted any extension of service to the Chief Engineer (General), Public Works Department, and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI: No, Sir.

Ticketless travel in Government buses

* 74 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) the steps taken by the Government to check ticketless travel in buses of the Government Transport; and